

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/809,273

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 7, and therefore all of the dependent claims, are patentable over Yamashita for at least the follow reasons.

Although the Examiner makes the connection between the moisture absorption sheet 4 as described in Yamashita and a member for an electroluminescent device of the present invention, Applicants submit that both members are quite different in their constitutions from each other.

The member for an electroluminescent device of the present invention (claim 1) comprises "a container a part of which is made of a porous material and a removing agent capable of removing a prescribed gaseous component, the removing agent being contained in the container". For example, the member is shown in Fig. 1.

On the other hand, the moisture absorption sheet 4 (shown in Fig. 1 or 3) as described in Yamashita is a sheet of an organic polymer with scattered powder of moisture absorbent (for example, a silica fine powder), as described in column 1, lines 53 to 55 and column 3, lines 3 to 6 thereof.

Yamashita describes that the moisture-proof sheet 5 is arranged on the outer surface of the moisture absorption sheet and the plastic film 3 is arranged on the inner surface of the moisture absorption sheet.

The Examiner seems to consider that the moisture-proof sheet 5 and the plastic film 3 form a "container" and the moisture absorption sheet 4 is sandwiched therebetween. If so, Yamashita does not disclose or suggest the constitution of the present invention.

As discussed above, in the present invention, it is essential that the removing agent capable of removing the prescribed gaseous component is contained in the container, a part of which is made of the porous material.

However, the moisture-proof sheet 5 for use in Yamashita is not porous. If it is porous, it does not become "moisture-proof".

Yamashita also describes in column 3, lines 43 to 48 that the plastic film 3 exhibits moisture-proof property and gas barrier property. The plastic film is not porous either.

Under these circumstances, the device described in Yamashita has such a structure that the moisture absorption sheet 4 is sandwiched between a pair of the moisture-impermeable materials. Accordingly, the device described in Yamashita does not have any porous portion, unless the present invention in this regard. Yamashita neither describes nor suggests the member for electroluminescent device and the electroluminescent device having the member according to the present invention.

In the present invention, the reason why a part of the container is made of the porous material is that the porous portion allows the moisture or gas entered into the device to permeate and the removing agent in the container comes in contact with the moisture or gas rapidly to adsorb the moisture or gas. Yamashita neither describes nor suggests the mechanism of adsorption of the moisture or gas according to the present invention.

Accordingly, the present invention is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Yamashita.


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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge any additional fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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